SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

SCN Annual Report 1999-2000

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Some of the cast from the Saskatchewan production *Cowboy Poetry.*

Letter of Transmittal

Regina, Saskatchewan

To Her Honour

The Honourable Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:
I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Communications Network Corporation (SCN) for the year ended March 31, 2000, including financial statements, in accordance with The Communications Network Corporation Act.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

Glenn Hagel
Minister Responsible for SCN

Message from the Board Chair

SCN continues to forge valuable partnerships to provide educational, informational and cultural programming on both its Training and Broadcast Networks.

Strong partnerships with Saskatchewan's educational institutions have led to the expansion of the SCN Training Network, which now provides much needed access to educational opportunities in 170 Saskatchewan communities.

As the learning needs of Saskatchewan residents continue to shift, SCN plays an increasingly important role in facilitating alternate methods of education delivery.

The SCN Multimedia Unit has worked with its many partners toward the development of web-based high school curriculum, and the production of a CD-ROM that is currently used as the standard job-site safety training program for Saskatchewan.

As computer networking becomes increasingly important, SCN has positioned itself to play an integral role in the delivery of broadband data transmission. Through its satellite infrastructure and new data gateway, SCN will be able to provide high speed Internet service to those communities with limited access.

SCN remains committed to the development of Saskatchewan's film and video industry. Partnerships with such Saskatchewan agencies as the Literacy Network, Arts Board and Writers Guild have yielded quality programs to give the SCN Broadcast Network a distinctly Saskatchewan flavour.

Of course, these accomplishments would not have been possible without the efforts of a competent and dedicated staff. At the heart of the Corporation is a group of talented individuals committed to establishing SCN as a vital part of Saskatchewan's cultural landscape.

As SCN moves into its 10th year on-air, many exciting projects are in development. I look forward with anticipation as SCN continues to harness new ways of providing increased access to information for all Saskatchewan residents.

Larry Symes
Chair

Corporate Direction

Vision

SCN is a leader in supporting the educational, cultural and social aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan through the creative use of technologies.

Mission

The mission of SCN is to increase the opportunity for all Saskatchewan residents to access and participate in learning, and to communicate on issues of common concern.

Mandate

SCN develops and uses technologies to provide all Saskatchewan residents with access to cost-effective educational, informational and cultural programming, and training opportunities.

Corporate Values

SCN contributes to the educational, social, cultural and economic well being of the province by encouraging life-long learning. We are committed to respecting, encouraging, and supporting SCN's employees, and recognize the role staff play in the development of the corporation.

In our work, SCN staff are guided by the following values:

Integrity

We believe in the worth and potential of the individual and in treating people honestly, fairly and with respect.

Creativity & Innovation

We believe in nurturing creativity, risk-taking and innovation, both internally and with our client groups.

Accountability

We believe in being accountable for our actions and the management of our resources.

Equity

We believe in equitable access to life-long learning and employment opportunities.

Communication

We believe in open, honest discussion, sharing information and teamwork.

Collaboration

We believe in working collaboratively, both internally and externally.

Excellence

We believe in the pursuit of excellence in all we do.

> "SCN is what television should be and seldom is."
>
> Alexandra Bródy
> Regina, SK

Corporate Profile

The Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) was created by an act of the Legislature to provide increased access to information for the people of the province. SCN reaches people in their homes, schools, and businesses in communities throughout Saskatchewan. SCN consists of two interrelated networks and a multimedia unit that supports work on both networks.

To promote the development, delivery, and increased availability of educational, informational, and cultural programming in Saskatchewan.

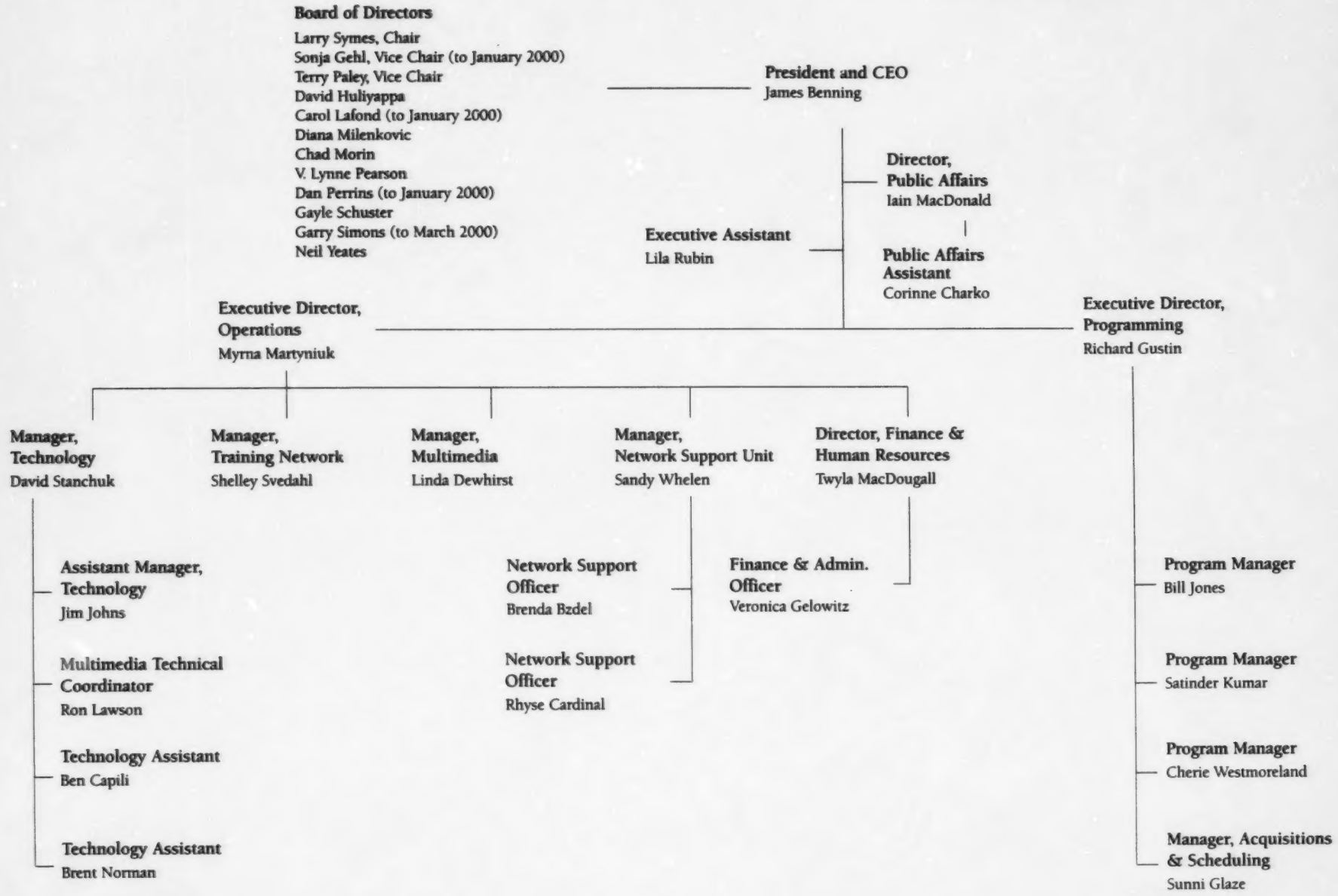
The SCN Broadcast Network delivers educational programming to homes and schools using the province's cable, wireless cable, and direct-to-home television systems. SCN broadcasts from 10:30 a.m. to midnight each weekday (8:00 a.m. to midnight weekends) and schedules specific curriculum support broadcasts, as well as a wide range of educational, informational, and cultural programming. The SCN Broadcast Network has a potential viewership of approximately 700,000 individuals in Saskatchewan.

The SCN Training Network provides Saskatchewan people with opportunities for formal education and training in over 150 communities. The province's universities, SIAST, regional colleges, high schools and government departments work closely with SCN to deliver credit programs to more than 180 Saskatchewan classrooms. SCN's Training Network gives people access to credit programming in or near their own communities.

SCN's Multimedia Unit partners with government departments and agencies as well as other educational institutions and media producers to expand the range of delivery options for training and credit education. As well as providing technical support and direction, the Multimedia Unit draws upon SCN's extensive administrative experience with broadcast television projects to assist all its partners with their multimedia initiatives.

Saskatchewan Communications Network

AS AT MARCH 31, 2000



1999/2000 Highlights

April 1999

• New Saskatchewan productions on the Broadcast Network include *Catching the Dream*, which profiles five Regina Pats and their lives in the Western Hockey League, and *They Live to Polka*, a program that pays homage to a Canadian prairie town tradition — the polka festival.

May 1999

• SCN marks National Mental Health Week with special programming on the Broadcast Network.

• SCN sponsors the program *Embrace Space - International Space Day 1999* in conjunction with the Canadian Space Agency's Western Space Education Centre based in Saskatoon. The program is made available to all Training Network receiving sites across the province as part of the International Space Day celebrations that take place across North America on May 6th.

June 1999

• SCN premiers three new Saskatchewan productions during the Prime Time Saskatchewan segment on the Broadcast Network: *Scarred by History, The Heart Becomes Quiet* and *Season of the Eiders*.

• *The Children's Miracle Network Telethon* airs on the Broadcast Network. The annual telethon raises funds for children's health initiatives within the province, and promotes education about child safety and health issues.

• SCN is designated the Provincial Learning Authority for Saskatchewan to coordinate the evaluation of learning plans submitted to Industry Canada in application for Multipoint Communications Systems in the 2500 Mhz range.

July 1999

• The Broadcast Network premiers *Jack Mackenzie's Tonic of Wilderness*, a Saskatchewan production featuring well-known Saskatchewan outdoor educator Jack Mackenzie.

August 1999

• SCN presents a satellite training event for SCN Coordinator Training and another for K-12 Instructor Orientation.

• SCN works with the Division Scolaire Francophone #310 and the University of Ottawa to establish a Francophone Distance Education Network in Saskatchewan.

• SCN establishes the Network Support Unit to operate an enhanced SCN Help Desk. The Help Desk provides comprehensive maintenance and support services to users of the SCN networks.

September 1999

• SCN cooperates with the Saskatchewan Literacy Network to obtain the broadcast rights to *Dr. Fraser Mustard: Key to a Healthy Future*. The program airs on September 8th, to celebrate the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's 10th Anniversary, as well as International Literacy Day.

• SCN provides training in Interactive Televised Instruction for high school teachers. This one-day training prepares teachers to teach using the television medium.

• SCN partners with SaskTel to test a high-speed Internet service over satellite for schools in rural Saskatchewan.

October 1999

• New programs on the Broadcast Network include *Heartbeat of the Earth*. This award-winning series is the result of SCN's partnership with Missinipi Broadcasting in La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

• SCN presents The Garth Ferguson Award for Excellence in Televised Teaching to post-secondary educator David Lawlor, University of Regina.

Left to right: Leetta Ferguson, Solomon Ratt, David Lawlor, and the Honourable Glenn Hagel during the Garth Ferguson Award ceremonies.

• SCN, the University of Regina Audio Visual Services, and the University of Saskatchewan Division of Audio Visual Services host the third annual training event called *Building a Learning Community*.

• SCN, in partnership with the Learning Technology Unit of Saskatchewan Education and Industry Canada, launches the Internet Training Mobile Unit designed to help facilitate on-site Internet and computer education for rural and northern high school teachers.

November 1999

• New Saskatchewan productions on the Broadcast Network include *Two Gun Cohen* and *A Soldier's Voice*.

• SCN presents a special live presentation of the Remembrance Day ceremonies from the Agridome in Regina.

• SCN participates in a special event in Saskatoon to celebrate the launch of the children's series *Prairie Berry Pie*.

• SCN hosts a training event on presentation skills for special event clients.

December 1999

• The Broadcast Network extends its broadcast day to 16 hours during the Christmas season.

• Saskatchewan Continuing Legal Education presents a seminar on the Training Network.

• SCN presents the *Holiday Lectures on Science, 2000 and Beyond,* to all Training Network sites.

• SCN acquires a system to provide high-speed networking via satellite to the educational community in Saskatchewan. Research continues, anticipating provision of service to schools in the fall of 2000.

January 2000

• SCN partners with The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan to broadcast *The Alzheimer Journey*, a three-part series created specifically to assist caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

• SCN participates in various new media pilot projects by establishing web-based educational software servers and providing technical support. Partners in the projects include the University of Regina and the Southeast, Cypress Hills, Parkland and Prairie West Regional Colleges.

• The SCN Training Network delivers a televised session for receiving sites participating in second semester high school courses.

February 2000

• SCN partners with Access Alberta, Knowledge Network and TVOntario for a coordinated launch of the National EDNet Broadcast of *In Time's Shadow: The Hegis*.

• SCN participates for the fifth year in the Faraday Lecture sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. The live lecture from London, England, *"Time and Place in the Communications Age,"* is broadcast to all Training Network sites.

• SCN partners with SaskTel's research and development department, Club Magic, and Campbell Collegiate to pilot the delivery of Calculus 30 on-line through the use of Internet video streaming technology.

March 2000

• New Saskatchewan productions on the Broadcast Network include *Tough Stuff*, a series of programs that explore individuals who have faced, and triumphed over, brain injuries and mental handicaps.

• SCN presents a workshop called *Pulling it All Together and Going 'On-Air'*. This is the final installment of a four-part series for special event clients.

• Saskatchewan Legal Education Society presents a satellite conference on SCN's Training Network.

Distance Education Services

To stimulate the development and utilization of distance education methods and technologies in fulfilling information and training needs.

As the 21st century rapidly moves the world from an industrial to a knowledge-based society, the need for individuals to be well educated and highly skilled increases. Changing demographics, population movement, and economic shifts are also challenging Saskatchewan. Life-long learning is taking centre stage, with teachers and instructors expanding their roles as facilitators of knowledge. The adult student population is demanding increased access to quality education options as they balance work, family and volunteer responsibilities in their home communities.

Since 1989, SCN has played a key role in the delivery of distance education and training to Saskatchewan. By investigating the many technology options, SCN has worked with its educational partners to provide accessible, interactive and cost-effective solutions.

SCN Training Network

The SCN Training Network is built upon a delivery system that integrates Saskatchewan's fiber optic system with satellite carriage to provide students with immediate access to an instructor's classroom from a distance.

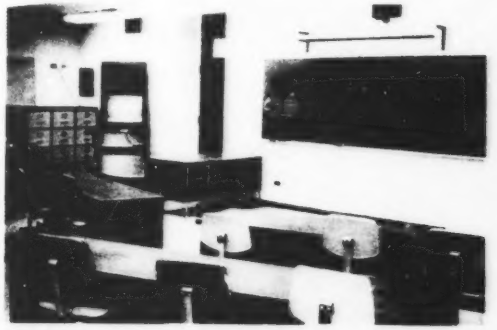
Using this technology, the Training Network coordinates the delivery of programs from educational institutions, businesses and professional organizations. By combining advanced technology with quality teaching, the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), and three high schools are able to extend their programs to receiving sites across the province.

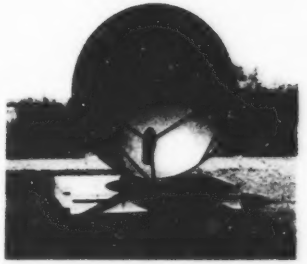
Regional colleges manage SCN centres in over 50 communities and provide learner support and counselling for students. In addition, there are 54 high schools, four SIAST sites, and 62 others equipped to receive one-way video and two-way audio live, interactive programming by satellite.

Receiving sites are equipped with a KuBand satellite dish, digital satellite receiver/decoder unit, television monitor, VCR, telephone and fax machine. In high demand centres, duplicate rooms have been installed, allowing two classes to be received simultaneously.

The continuing success of the SCN Training Network is the result of SCN's collaborative efforts with its many educational partners. These partnerships provide Saskatchewan people with continued opportunities for education and training in or near their home communities.

Funding is provided through SCN to educational institutions (regional colleges, SIAST and universities) on a contract-for-service basis. SCN acts as an arbiter and coordinator in areas of scheduling and network usage between diverse institutions.





Top: The Distance Education classroom in Swift Current.
Left: The SCN satellite dish at LaFleche.

Post Secondary Credit Programs

Post secondary courses are prioritized by the Distance Education Program Review Committee (DEPRC) based on SCN's course development funds.

In 1999/2000, SCN delivered 56 university, SIAST and high school credit courses to as many as 170 sites. This represents 2167.5 hours of credit programming.

Credit Programs

	1998/99	1999/00
Registrants	3440.0	3243.0
Hours	2140.5	2167.5
Classrooms	185.0	205.0
Programs	58.0	56.0

Credit programming includes university, SIAST and high school.

Multi-mode Services

SCN supports the delivery of multi-mode courses to expand the delivery of credit courses and to maximize financial resources. There continues to be an increasing trend toward the multi-mode format, which includes a combination of televised, face-to-face, prepackaged video, and computer conferencing.

SIAST courses, for example, were delivered using pre-taped videos that were available to each student in their home. This independent study was supplemented with 12 hours of televised course instruction, allowing for live teacher-student interaction four times during the semester. New courses are generally delivered using the full 39 hours of on-air time for live, interactive television.

High School Courses

During 1999/2000, SCN delivered a range of live, interactive televised secondary school courses to some rural high schools. These courses were coordinated by the Saskatchewan Government Correspondence School with Campbell Collegiate in Regina, Viscount's School of the Future, and Swift Current Comprehensive High School.

These classes allow rural schools to integrate distance education methodologies with traditional classroom practice, expanding the opportunities and instructional resources for their students.

In each course, an on-air teacher provides instruction to his or her own class along with scheduled live, interactive sessions with the remote classes. Students at a distance view the class on a television monitor and can communicate with the teacher via telephone and facsimile machine. Facilitating teachers at the receiving sites act as resource persons and guides for students, as well as a liaison with the on-air teacher. Assignments are marked, returned, and discussed with the students in remote areas in the same manner as in a traditional face-to-face classroom.

In 1999/2000, courses involving approximately 732 hours of high school programming were transmitted by satellite to rural schools.

The provision of high school education through distance learning using SCN began in 1990 with the establishment of a partnership between SCN and three Saskatchewan school divisions. Today, the partnership has expanded so that SCN, the Saskatchewan Government Correspondence School, and three production high schools are able to provide nine classes to any of 170 communities across the province that are linked to the SCN system.

> "SCN provides us with a unique opportunity to provide timely and accessible CLE courses to our rural practitioners."
>
> *Ann Harley, Saskatoon, SK*

SCN Delivered Courses 1999 - 2000

Programmer	Registrants	Sites	Hours
University of Regina			
Logic 100	53	17	39
Human Justice 354	87	17	39
Sociology 212	96	22	39
Social Studies 110	82	15	39
Biology 100	28	6	39
Biology 101	14	5	39
Cree 100 SIFC	80	18	39
Cree 101 SIFC	38	13	39
Psychology 100	120	24	39
Psychology 220	94	23	39
Astronomy 101	58	14	39
Social Work 420	30	3	14
French 201	9	5	13
English 100 Fall SIFC	74	19	39
English 100 Winter SIFC	65	19	39
Subtotal 15	**928**		**534**
SIAST			
Accounting 122	114	43	18
Accounting 125	40	24	18
Administration 120	83	31	18
Administration 220	62	13	18
Administration 222	34	23	18
Administration 230	33	17	45
Business Communication 120	62	28	18
Business Communication 121	33	20	18
Comp 120 (Information Systems I)	75	33	18
Comp 121 (Information Systems II)	40	27	18
Economics 120	61	29	18
Economics 121	46	25	18
Finance 120	67	29	18
Law 220	57	25	18
Marketing 120	47	22	18
Statistics 120	42	18	18
FMLP 166 Nutrition and Feeding	13	9	3
FMLP 164 Genetics and Breeding	11	7	3
FMLP 167 Beef Marketing	11	7	12
Basic Care Skills	40	20	36
Nutrition 198	48	14	36
Nursing 116	12	5	36
Subtotal 22	**1031**		**441**
University of Saskatchewan			
English 110.6	114	18	78
Native Studies 110.6	103	20	78
Native Studies 200.6	16	5	78
Agricultural Science I (Agric111.3)	25	11	39
Agricultural Science II (Agric 112.3)	18	7	39
Certificates in Agriculture	150	10	28.5
Anthropology 111.3 (audio/mixed mode)	19	4	26
Archeology 112.3 (audio/mixed mode)	11	4	26
Sociology 227.6 (audio/mixed mode)	8	4	52
Educational Pyschology 437 (mixed mode)	353	14	16
Subotal 10	**817**		**460.5**
Viscount High School			
French 10	30	10	83
French 20	21	6	83
French 30	12	4	83
French 9	42	11	83
Campbell Collegiate			
Calculus 30	145	38	80
Law 30	80	8	80
Psychology 30	110	13	80
Swift Current Comprehensive			
Entrepreneurship 30 Semester One	17	5	80
Entrepreneurship 30 Semester Two	10	4	80
Subtotal 9	**467**		**732**
Total 56	**3243**		**2167.5**

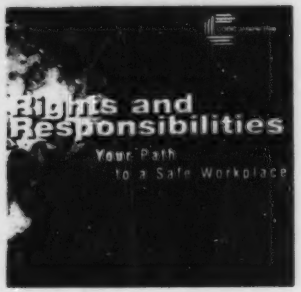
SCN Multimedia Unit

In response to growing demands for technical support and guidance on alternate distance education delivery methods, SCN created the Multimedia Unit in May 1998. As well as providing technical support and direction, SCN draws on its extensive administrative experience with broadcast television projects to assist various organizations with their multimedia initiatives. SCN participates as a partner with government departments and agencies, the province's two universities, SIAST, regional colleges, school divisions and boards, as well as corporations to assist in increasing access and opportunities for learning through distance education alternatives.

The following projects have been undertaken and supervised by SCN's multimedia unit, in partnership with other agencies.

Rights and Responsibilities: Your Path To A Safe Workplace

CD-ROM



SCN, in partnership with labour and management organizations, provincial and federal government departments, Crown and private corporations, and health associations, produced a CD-ROM that is currently used as the standard job-site safety training program for the province. The computer-based interactive learning modules are centred on the Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations. Through Saskatchewan Labour, this project was distributed across the province in May 1999 to all high schools and technical institutes as well as union halls and corporate training facilities.

Provincial Learning Authority

In June 1999, Industry Canada announced the selection process for Multipoint Communications Systems in the 2500 MHz range. Licences were to be granted by Industry Canada to selected Canadian companies, allowing them to provide a wider variety of services including voice, data, multimedia, and broadcasting to residential and business subscribers via MCS wireless airwaves.

SCN was designated the Provincial Learning Authority for Saskatchewan with the role of coordinator for the provincial learning community. In collaboration with the Departments of Education, Post Secondary Education and Skills Training, Provincial Library and the Office of Information Technology, a Provincial Needs Assessment document was developed stating access, financial support, Saskatchewan partners and connectivity as the key priorities.

Pilot Projects

The Rural Access Pilot Program was designed to meet the increasing need for Adult Basic Education (ABE) in rural and remote areas of Saskatchewan. The two-year project is centred in the satellite regions of Parkland and Prairie West Regional Colleges in the rural communities of Kamsack, Esterhazy and Biggar, as well as one rural home site in Lintlaw. The project's goals are to develop a technology enhanced learning model that is truly learner-centred, and to target the program to individuals who have historically not had success with traditional learning methods.

To ensure access, interactivity and learner supports, SCN has researched, tested and implemented Internet-based course delivery and video conferencing systems. These systems — WebCT and Classpoint — are hosted and maintained by SCN.

Through the Southeast distance education pilot program, web-based High School Curriculum modules were developed by local Estevan teachers who began their tests in September 1999 with other high schools in Weyburn, Torquay and Fillmore. Partners in this project include Southeast Education Foundation, public and rural school divisions and boards, University of Regina, Southeast Regional College, both government education departments, SIAST and SaskTel.

SCN provided server support for web-based Francophone High School Courses. Working with the Saskatchewan Francophone School Division, SCN assisted in the development of a distance education network for their students throughout the province.

As well, SCN was involved in the design of a Mobile Training Unit

> "***Heartbeat*** is without question the finest show on TV today. The U.S.A. doesn't have anything that even comes close. The people at SCN should be very proud for bringing this quality of programming to this province. I must compliment you as well on your programming in general. To think this quality programming is being achieved in our own province."
>
> *Russ Bevans*
> *Kipling, SK*

to facilitate on-site Internet and computer education for rural and northern high school teachers. SCN entered into this partnership with Industry Canada and Saskatchewan Education. This initiative was launched in October 1999.

Testing has also begun on video conferencing and web-based learning modules for post secondary classes in partnership with the University of Regina, Southeast, Cypress Hills and Parkland Regional Colleges. Designed to establish and evaluate a new model of network learning in rural Saskatchewan, interactive student learning stations will be set up in Estevan, Weyburn, Swift Current, and Yorkton.

SCN continues its work with the RCMP, Training Program Support, "Depot" Division in the development and implementation of a web-based distance education component to the traditional RCMP Cadet Training Program. In this project, cadets complete the required modules in their home communities prior to entry into the Academy. Initial testing of the modules centred in Saskatchewan. The program has now expanded to include recruiters and cadets from across Canada.

SCN Help Desk

In July 1999, SCN began operation of the Help Desk at the SCN head office in Regina.

Management of this Help Desk service provides SCN with a greater opportunity to take ownership and control of its total service package. SCN is now able to provide a comprehensive maintenance and support package as well as a more reliable, coordinated system. SCN now has the capacity to monitor and provide assistance to all users of the system including LEG services, classrooms, special event clients and cable operators.

Satellite Conferencing

SCN provides an economical training system to help Saskatchewan businesses and organizations deliver seminars and/or training programs to dispersed target audiences. This delivery system, known as satellite conferencing, is an efficient and cost-effective way to communicate simultaneously with these audiences.

Programmers use a number of presentation formats including guest speaker presentation, panel discussions, demonstrations, lectures and dramatizations. Slides, graphics and pre-produced videotaped programs have also been used to add visual interest or variety. Effective programs have included group activities and discussion at a distance with on-air telephone question-and-answer sessions.

In 1999/2000 a number of organizations used the Training Network to reach their target audiences:

Programmer	Date	# of Sites	# of Hours	Participants
Programming Institutions	Aug. 26, 1999	149	3.5	300
SCN Site Training	Aug. 26, 1999	3	1.5	75
Sask Health	Sept. 30, 1999	32	7	300
Continuing Pharmacy	Nov. 14 1999	10	2	150
Social Services	Nov. 20, 1999	11	7	200
Sask Health	Dec. 2, 1999	11	4	50
Sask Legal Education	Dec. 3, 1999	9	3	65
Holiday Lectures on Science	Dec. 6, 7, 1999	10	20	100
Saskatchewan Teachers Federation	Jan. 17, 2000	7	2	60
IEEE Faraday Lecture	Feb. 9, 2000	25	1	75
IEEE Faraday Lecture	Feb. 11, 2000	15	1	50
Shorebird Lovers PBS Telecast	Feb. 17, 2000	15	2	50
Shorebird Lovers PBS Telecast	Mar. 3, 2000	15	2	50
Sask Legal Education	March 10, 2000	10	3	175
Total Number of Programs	**14**	**322**	**59**	**1700**

SCN Broadcast Network

SCN received its Educational Broadcast Licence from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in February 1991 and began operations on the Broadcast Network in May 1991. SCN's licence was renewed for a four-year term in September 1995 and for a seven-year term in November 1999.

The Broadcast Network's primary objective is to provide the development and delivery of educational, informational, and cultural programs. Strategic alliances with educational institutions, government departments, professional associations, non-profit organizations, and the province's film and video industry ensure production and acquisition of relevant programming. These partnerships also facilitate public education and a variety of learning opportunities that are unavailable through other types of television services.

The following principles apply to SCN's Broadcast Network activities:

- SCN believes encouragement and support of province-specific programs are essential to reflect this province's unique culture and identity.
- SCN recognizes the unparalleled delivery potential of the integration of its Broadcast and Training Networks. Such a combination provides residents with greater access to formal and informal educational opportunities closer to their home communities. Prime examples on the Broadcast Network include availability of post-secondary support material, career training, K-12 curriculum support, and informal educational programs.
- SCN continues to place emphasis on building partnerships with numerous groups and organizations including formal education institutions, non-government organizations, cable operators, other broadcasters and other key stakeholders in the development and delivery of targeted, relevant material.
- SCN's present program inventory provides a blend of curriculum support, social awareness, agriculture, health, arts and humanities, drama, environment, career development, science and technology, and children/family resources for scheduling throughout the broadcast day. This inventory is continually expanded and enhanced through consultation and attention to viewer feedback.

Reach/Content

SCN is broadcast over provincial cable, wireless cable, and direct-to-home satellite systems to more than 250 communities with a potential viewership of approximately 700,000 individuals. SCN's Canadian content, as designated in its CRTC licence, is 60 percent over the entire broadcast day and 50 percent during the evening broadcast period.

Broadcast Distribution and Hours

In 1999/2000, the Broadcast Network was distributed via Telesat's Anik E1 Satellite. SCN is on-air weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to midnight, and weekends from 8:00 a.m. to midnight.

Target Audiences

SCN targets special-interest audiences. The emphasis in the selection of programs includes children (pre-school children and youth at home), families, adult learners, seniors, multicultural and Aboriginal communities, and schools.

Four priority areas identified by the Corporation are:

- Curriculum support
- Saskatchewan productions
- Children
- Skills development

Broadcast Signal

SCN's master control is operated through contractual agreement by the Division of Audio Visual Services, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

SCN does not have production facilities. It supports, stimulates, and promotes the province's television production industry through the development and licensing of programming initiatives. This approach ensures SCN's financial efficiency and effectiveness.

To support Saskatchewan film and video productions.

Subject Emphasis

SCN has two distinct program areas:

Formal programming is directly related to the curriculum taught in K-12 and post-secondary levels of education. These resources are also appropriate for viewing by the general audience.

Informal educational programming promotes public education designed to assist individuals in acquiring knowledge and skills. These programs are chosen to encourage viewers to become involved in a variety of learning activities. The audience ranges from preschoolers to seniors.

Productions are evaluated on:

- Content relevance
- Available budget resources, both internally and externally
- Suitability to audience needs
- Production value
- Constituency support

Partners in Education

SCN provides two hours of network time each school day to deliver K-12 programming directly to the classroom. To do this, SCN works closely with the Curriculum and Instruction Branch of Saskatchewan Education in evaluating, acquiring, and scheduling learning resources to support K-12 curricula. As well, SCN consults with the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) in evaluating, acquiring, and scheduling resources to support post-secondary courses. SCN is a member of the Distance Education Program Review Committee (DEPRC) which meets to review priorities for funding distance education in Saskatchewan.

In 1999/2000, SCN contributed approximately 81 new hours of programming to formal education.

Broadcast Network time is also dedicated to post-secondary programs to support independent study courses and courses delivered on SCN's Training Network.

Partnerships

Where specific needs are not addressed by existing inventory, SCN works with others to develop new resources. Saskatchewan Education, independent producers and others collaborate with SCN to produce programming. Partnerships with the Saskatchewan film and video industry stimulate the economy by providing industry development and jobs for many talented and creative individuals. Following are examples of such initiatives.

International Literacy Day
SCN cooperated with the Saskatchewan Literacy Network to obtain the broadcast rights to *Dr. Fraser Mustard: Key to a Healthy Future*. This program was broadcast Wednesday, September 8th to celebrate both the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's 10th anniversary, as well as International Literacy Day.

The Alzheimer Journey
In cooperation with The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, SCN obtained broadcast rights to this three-part series. Created specifically to help caregivers, the series explores the challenging journey that Alzheimer's disease creates for individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers.

The Alzheimer Journey

Crime Prevention and Safety for Seniors
Working with the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus, SCN obtained the broadcast rights to this informative, Saskatchewan-based program developed through the cooperation of the Saskatoon and Regina Police Services, and the R.C.M.P.

National EdNet Broadcast of In Time's Shadow: The Hegis
The Documentary Unit of TVOntario produced this one-hour documentary follow-up to last year's Gemini award-winner *Before Their Time* by David Way. SCN pre-licensed this project.

Walk a Mile: The Immigrant Experience in Canada
Walk a Mile: The Immigrant Experience in Canada is produced by British Columbia's Knowledge Network and offered, at no cost, to SCN and other broadcasters across Canada. The programs incorporate documentary interviews and dramatizations of the stories of immigrants to Canada and their new beginnings in this country.

Co-acquisition Partnerships

By partnering with TVOntario, BC's The Knowledge Network, and occasionally ACCESS Alberta, SCN is often able to acquire top quality programming that would not be available on an individual acquisition basis. These include first-run series such as *P.B. Bear And Friends*, *YoHo Ahoy*, and *The Rainbow Fish*.

P.B. Bear and Friends

Interstitials

A partnership between SCN and the Saskatchewan Writers Guild (SWG) resulted in the production of 46 videos featuring 15 Saskatchewan writers reading from their works in a celebration of the SWG's 30th anniversary. A continuing partnership with the Saskatchewan Arts Board (SAB) brought 90 new images from the permanent collection of the Board to the TV screen in the form of SCN station IDs, as well as 10 interstitials and a special promo celebrating the SAB's 50th anniversary. Also, a partnership with the Saskatoon Public Library resulted in 10 new interstitials on characters in Saskatchewan history. A new initiative with Saskatchewan Culture for interstitials on cultural themes is in development.

Saskatchewan Productions

SCN is committed to the development of the film and video industry in Saskatchewan. A strong industry generates direct economic benefits for the province in the form of jobs and financial investments in provincial resources.

SCN stimulates original production through the acquisition of broadcast licences. The producer and content stakeholders further contribute financially to support the project. This process results in a finished production with a greater value than the SCN contribution. For every dollar invested by SCN, the film and video industry generates over four dollars.

A further benefit is the attraction of Canadian Television/Cable Production Fund and Telefilm funding dollars, facilitated by SCN's broadcast licence and venue for initial broadcast.

As of March 31, 2000, SCN participated in over 400 Saskatchewan-based projects in various phases of production; to date over 200 of these have been completed and are available for broadcast.

SCN's participation in original Saskatchewan productions provides the Broadcast Network with a distinctly different program schedule. Original production provides a substantial stimulus for the province's film and video industry and captures Saskatchewan's unique culture. Following are some examples of Saskatchewan productions on SCN.

Beyond Medicine
Beyond Medicine is a documentary television series about complementary medicine, produced by Partners in Motion of Regina. Each of the 13 half-hour programs is an odyssey of wonder and enlightenment, separating fact from fiction, exploring the fascinating world of alternative medicine.

To develop and maintain partnerships that enable SCN to meet its corporate objectives.

"We enjoyed your programming through the years when we lived in Saskatchewan, and appreciated the fact that you provided us with a comprehensive guide. We wish you well for the coming years. I hope you will be able to maintain your excellent standards."

Judith Beaglehole
British Columbia

Don't Give Up
Don't Give Up presents a rare opportunity to witness the actual developmental process and progress of an autistic child, without relying entirely on statements made by experts in the field.

Incredible Story Studio
Saskatchewan continues to produce quality children's programming such as *Incredible Story Studio IV* (episodes 40 through 52) by Regina's Minds Eye Pictures. This year, the "incredibly" successful venture has gone international with half the programs being filmed in Ireland. The latest episodes are due for delivery to SCN in February of 2001.

Scarred by History
A series developed by Four Square Productions of Regina in partnership with SCN and History Television, *Scarred by History* has broken new ground in the area of international co-production with producers from countries such as Ukraine, China, Poland, Hungary, and Singapore.

A Soldier's Voice
Starting out as a one-hour documentary for SCN and History Television by Partners in Motion, Regina, *A Soldier's Voice* is based on reminiscences by veterans from World War I. The program was so successful it has been developed into a four-part series.

A Soldier's Voice

Two Lands, One Vision
Two Lands, One Vision features four writers, two from Saskatchewan and two from Ukraine traveling across Saskatchewan to launch their new books and share cultural experiences.

Splice TV
Splice TV is a continuing series featuring the work of Saskatchewan alternative and experimental filmmakers. *Splice TV* is produced in partnership with the Saskatchewan Film Pool and Access Communications (formerly Cable Regina).

Short Films and Interstitials
SCN has commissioned some 200 short films on Saskatchewan cultural, environmental and historical themes from over a dozen Saskatchewan production companies and independent producers in the past 18 months. These productions run between scheduled programs and help establish a Saskatchewan flavour on the network.

Aboriginal Programming

SCN continues to attach priority to developing and broadcasting Aboriginal programming, particularly from Saskatchewan.

Heartbeat of the Earth, a 13-part series produced by Missinipi Broadcasting/Y'utthe Askiy Productions, La Ronge, looks at the diverse languages, cultures and people of Northern Saskatchewan. SCN has already committed to a second season of the series.

Circle of Voices

Circle of Voices, produced by Blue Hills Productions, Saskatoon, is a moving documentary by Doug Cuthand that follows the development of a pilot theatre program to help heal troubled Aboriginal youth.

Indigenous Circle (partnership with CTV Saskatchewan) and *Sharing Circle* are half-hour magazine program series, each comprised of 26 episodes, dealing with topical Aboriginal issues, that SCN pre-licenses.

SCN also pre-licenses or acquires many quality documentaries and dramas reflecting indigenous cultures and concerns from Canada and around the world. Examples are: *Women of the Sun*, an Australian drama series about the history of colonization from the point of view of indigenous women; and *T'Lina: The Rendering of Wealth*, a documentary about a First Nations community in British Columbia, winner of the Best Videography Award at the Yorkton Short Film Festival.

Acquisitions

SCN has acquired many excellent programs for broadcast, including:

Trouble In Mind
Kate Jackson leads us through the history, treatments and advances of 13 mental disorders. Using interviews, art literature, historical footage and scientific animation, the program features a personal view of what it's like to live with each disease.

Your Health
Hosted by former CBC Regina radio host Maureen Taylor, and produced by TVOntario, *Your Health* is a concise consumer-oriented health series that examines current health care issues and treatments.

Sex Spelled Out for Parents
With sensitivity, honesty, and a good sense of humour, Meg Hickling addresses the real questions she has been asked over the years by children. She provides practical, no-nonsense, up-to-date suggestions and encouragement for parents addressing sexuality and sexual health issues with their children.

A Scattering of Seeds
A personal and evocative television series that celebrates the grit and character of unsung immigrants to Canada. Featuring stories from across Canada including Saskatchewan, the series is going into its fourth season and is also used by schools.

A Scattering of Seeds

History Lands
A continuing series about Canada's history and historic landmarks.

The Independent Eye
Produced in partnership with the Knowledge Network of British Columbia, *The Independent Eye* is a continuing series that provides a window for Canadian experimental and alternative filmmakers.

Amongst Women
A drama series that won the Rocky Award at last year's Banff Television Festival for the Best Television Program/Series.

House Gang
A groundbreaking Australian sitcom from SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) using intellectually challenged actors. A viewer returning from Australia brought this series to SCN's attention. SCN is the first North American broadcaster to acquire and air this series.

House Gang

Programming that is underwritten continues to be a part of the SCN inventory. For example, *Paper, Scissors, Glue* — a delightful series of shorts for children, and *The Artists Workshop* — a series of instructional painting programs.

Children's Programming

SCN is involved in a number of Canadian children's projects including:

- *Rockabye Bubble*;
- *The Way Things Work*;
- *The Toy Castle*;
- *The Magical Kitchen*; and,
- *Albert & Atom*.

These are all series, produced by what has become a very solid and prolific children's production community.

Technical Overview

To identify and secure resources required to meet the corporate mandate.

SCN uses satellite-delivered Digital Video Compression (DVC) technology to distribute its Training and Broadcast Network signals throughout Saskatchewan.

For the Training Network, one-way video and audio are transmitted from classroom studios to receiving sites where students participate in the live lectures on television, and interact with instructors via telephone, fax and Internet. Receiving locations at regional colleges and high schools are equipped with satellite dishes and appropriate equipment as recommended and supplied by SCN.

All receiving sites have access to SCN's new Training Network Help Desk and Maintenance Plan instituted this year. The Help Desk now provides invaluable technical support to all distance education satellite users in the province. Subscribers to the Maintenance Plan are cost-effectively supported for on and off site repairs.

Training Network programs originate from eight classroom studios around the province. Other studios and locations can be connected to SCN's network as required for special events.

Video and audio signals from the various locations are transported to SCN's uplinks utilizing the province's SaskTel fiber optic and microwave telecommunications infrastructure. SCN's uplink, located at and operated under contract by the University of Saskatchewan's Division of Audio Visual Services (DAVS) in Saskatoon, is the primary transmit facility for the Training and Broadcast Networks. When additional traffic warrants, signals are routed to a secondary uplink, on an occasional use basis, owned and operated by SaskTel in Regina. From the uplinks, signals are transmitted to Telesat Canada's Anik E1 satellite.

Broadcast Network signals originate from SCN's Master Control provided under contract from within the facilities of the University of Saskatchewan, DAVS. SCN provides satellite receivers for cable companies in 256 Saskatchewan communities. The Broadcast Network is also carried on the Image Wireless cable system through the province, and the Star Choice and Bell ExpressVu direct-to-home satellite systems.

SCN replaced its analog satellite transmissions system with a state-of-the-art Digital Video Compression (DVC) system in August 1996. DVC has greatly improved signal reliability, quality, cost-efficiency and program capacity. DVC provides five video/audio channels to SCN on a full-time basis for Broadcast and Training Network programs, eliminating SCN's need to lease scarce, expensive, and occasional use satellite capacity during high-traffic periods.

The DVC system provides greater signal capacity than required for SCN, and with the cooperation of SaskTel, the same excess capacity is leased to provide expanded and improved services for other distribution systems. Television coverage of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly expanded from 88 to 111 communities throughout the province this year, and CBC Radio was carried to isolated transmitter locations in Saskatchewan's far north. Revenue from the leases help to offset SCN's operating expenses.

In the fall of 1999, SCN undertook a trial, in conjunction with SaskTel, which opened the door to future broadband data transmission capabilities. A data gateway was installed at one of SCN's uplinks and an extension of high speed Internet service was implemented to a number of "off net" schools in the province. The successful trial has positioned SCN to play an integral role in providing high speed educational services to areas of the province with limited access.

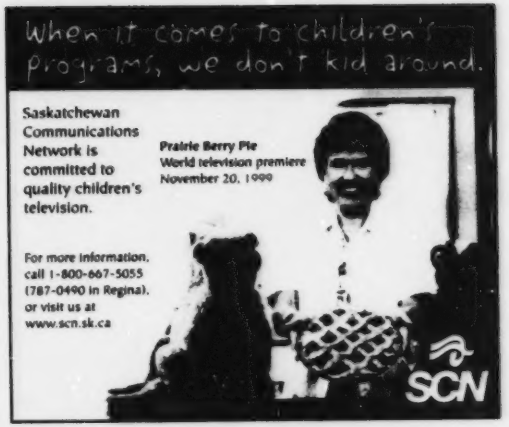
Additionally, SCN's Multimedia and Technical group were busy providing consultation for and implementing trials and operations involving specialized educational server hosting. This included services such as online learning through an SCN WebCT server and a multipoint Internet videoconferencing bridge for secondary and post-secondary institutions.

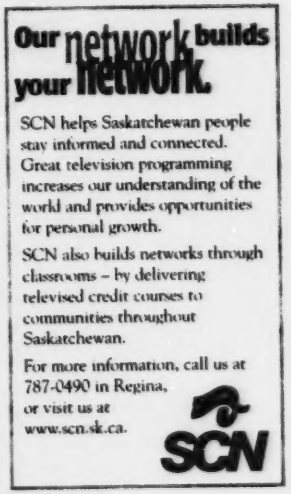
SCN Public Affairs

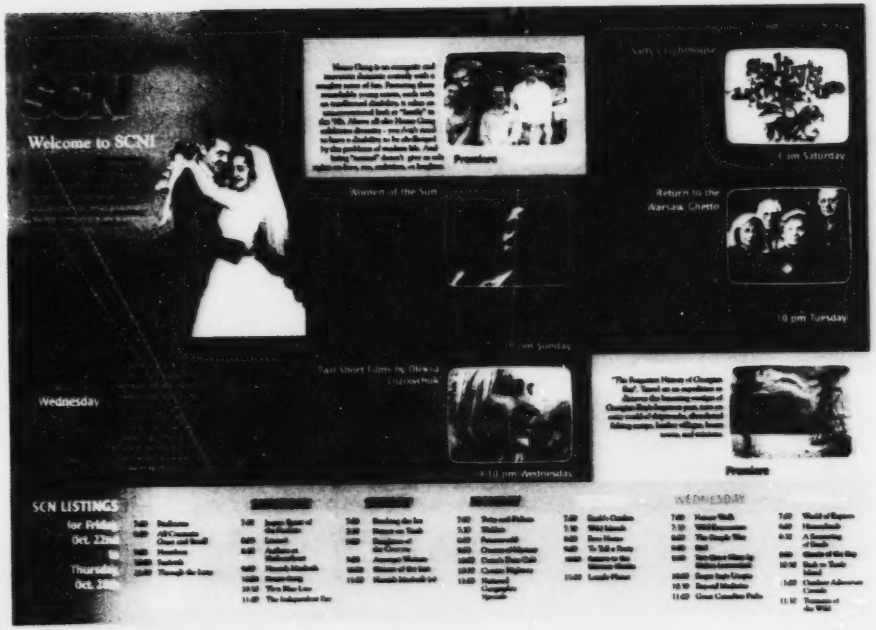
SCN Public Affairs is responsible for developing communication and information strategies that facilitate the attainment of corporate goals and objectives.

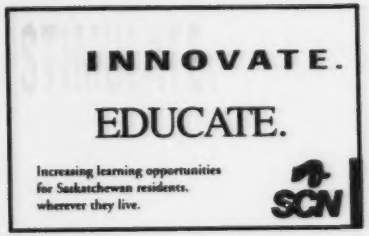
The Public Affairs office handles corporate print and advertising requirements, media and government relations, special event planning, and a variety of other functions.

Public Affairs also serves as the main point of contact between the Corporation, its networks and the Saskatchewan public. Members of the public who desire information about SCN, who have comments on SCN programs or services, or who would like to make other inquiries about the Corporation should contact the Public Affairs office at the addresses and numbers on the back cover.


When it comes to children's programs, we don't kid around.
Saskatchewan Communications Network is committed to quality children's television.
Prairie Berry Pie
World television premiere
November 20, 1999
For more information, call 1-800-667-5055 (787-0490 in Regina), or visit us at www.scn.sk.ca
SCN


Our network builds your network.
SCN helps Saskatchewan people stay informed and connected. Great television programming increases our understanding of the world and provides opportunities for personal growth.
SCN also builds networks through classrooms – by delivering televised credit courses to communities throughout Saskatchewan.
For more information, call us at 787-0490 in Regina, or visit us at www.scn.sk.ca.
SCN





SCN
WE SUPPORT REEL TALENT!
Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) is a proud supporter of Reel Revel and the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association.
For more information, call 1-800-667-5055 (787-0490 in Regina) or visit us at www.scn.sk.ca

Financial Statements

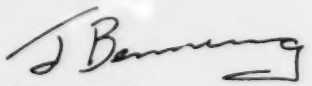
For the year ended March 31, 2000

Responsibility For Financial Statements

The financial statements of Saskatchewan Communications Network Corporation (SCN) have been prepared by the management of SCN in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Canada. The financial statements have been examined and approved by the Board of Directors of SCN. The independent auditors have performed an audit of SCN which has enabled them to express their opinion on the financial statements of SCN. This opinion is shown opposite.

Preparation of financial information is an integral part of management's broader responsibilities for the ongoing operations of SCN. Management is responsible for the system of internal accounting controls to ensure that transactions are accurately recorded on a timely basis, are properly approved, and result in reliable financial statements.

An Audit Committee, composed of members of the Board of Directors of SCN, meets periodically with management and the independent auditors. These independent auditors have free access to this committee, without management present, to discuss the results of their audit work and their opinion on the adequacy of internal financial controls and the quality of financial reporting.



James Benning
President and CEO

Auditor's Report

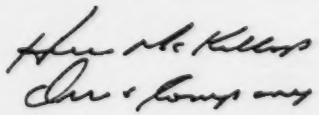
To the Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Province of Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan:

We have audited the statement of financial position of **Saskatchewan Communications Network Corporation** as at 31 March 2000, and the statements of revenue, expenditures and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at 31 March 2000, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.



Hill McKillop Orr & Comapny
Chartered Accountants

20 April 2000

Regina, Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Communications Network Corporation

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31, 2000

	2000 $	1999 $
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equi valents	1,579,755	2,508,117
Accounts receivable and accrued interest (note 9)	98,195	241,412
Inventory and prepaid expenses	132,977	103,679
	1,810,927	2,853,208
Capital Assets (note 3)	806,236	939,084
	2,617,163	3,792,292
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 9)	711,353	1,353,184
Funds under administration (note 4)	92,200	74,063
Unearned revenue	210,378	722,412
	1,013,931	2,149,659
EQUITY		
Equity in capital assets (note 5)	806,236	939,084
Appropriated retained earnings - capital reserve (note 6)	250,000	150,000
Unappropriated retained earnings	546,996	553,549
	1,603,232	1,642,633
	2,617,163	3,792,292

Commitments (note 7)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____, Director

_____, Director

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND RETAINED EARNINGS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

	2000 $	1999 $
REVENUE		
Grant from the Government of Saskatchewan		
• General Revenue Fund	7,308,000	7,305,000
• Department of Education	15,000	0
Interest	106,329	121,159
Satellite conferencing and channel rentals	75,029	173,938
Project administration	13,695	21,107
Miscellaneous	42,160	40,849
Transponder lease	533,333	533,333
	8,093,546	8,195,386
EXPENDITURES		
Administration (note 11)	801,661	810,377
Program support	548,064	522,416
Program development and production costs	733,737	864,981
Program acquisition costs	2,104,817	2,052,786
Network distribution (note 11)	3,944,668	4,044,832
	8,132,947	8,295,392
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	(39,401)	(100,006)
UNAPPROPRIATED RETAINED EARNINGS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	553,549	467,636
Allocation (to)/from equity in capital assets (note 5)	132,848	335,919
Appropriation (to)/from Capital Reserve (note 6)	(100,000)	(150,000)
UNAPPROPRIATED RETAINED EARNINGS - END OF YEAR	546,996	553,549

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

	2000 $	1999 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Grants received	7,353,000	7,305,000
Interest received	107,744	117,194
Fees received for goods and services	263,986	1,310,914
Net cash receipts (payments) for funds under administration	18,137	(50,512)
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(8,390,536)	(7,737,480)
Cash flows from operating activities	(647,669)	945,116
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Cash payments for purchase of capital assets	(280,693)	(102,642)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(928,362)	842,474
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,508,117	1,665,643
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	1,579,755	2,508,117
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF		
Short-term investments	992,583	1,585,656
Bank balances	752,175	1,182,076
Less outstanding cheques	(165,003)	(259,615)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	1,579,755	2,508,117

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

1. Status of Corporation

Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network Authority (SCAN) was established by an order-in-council January 11, 1989 under the Crown Corporations Act, 1978. SCAN was continued as Saskatchewan Communications Network Corporation (SCN) under the Communications Network Corporation Act, 1990.

The Corporation operates a training network, which electronically links communities throughout Saskatchewan, and a cable network, which began broadcasting on May 6, 1991 under licence from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The current licence expires on August 31, 2006.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

a) Inventory

Inventory, consisting of blank video tapes, is recorded at the lower of cost, determined on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value. Inventory, consisting of receivers, is recorded at the lower of cost, determined on a weighted average basis, and net realizable value.

b) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated as follows:

Office equipment and furniture	Declining Balance	30%
Uplink development and network configuration	Declining Balance	30%
Computer hardware	Declining Balance	40%
TVs, VCRs, satellite dish and video equipment receivers	Declining Balance	40%
Fax machines and audio conferencing units	Declining Balance	50%
Computer software	Declining Balance	60%
Network alignment	Straight Line	3 years
Data transmission equipment	Straight Line	3 years
Digital video compression equipment *	Straight Line	7 years

*Effective April 1, 1999, the estimated useful life for digital video compression equipment has been increased from five to seven years. This change was due to better than anticipated performance of the equipment.

c) Transponder lease

The Corporation has entered into a three-year sublease of transponder satellite space, which expires August 31, 2000. The lessee has assumed payment direct to the satellite space provider and has provided the Corporation with a premium on the sub-lease which is recorded as revenue for the period in which it is earned. All costs associated with providing the sub-lease have been capitalized as network alignment costs and are amortized over the term of the lease.

d) Revenue recognition

Government contributions are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Other revenues are recognized when the related service is provided.

e) Program acquisition and production

Program acquisition and production costs are expensed as incurred.

3. Capital Assets

The components of the capital assets as well as the related accumulated depreciation are as follows:

	2000			1999
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book value	Net Book value
	$	$	$	$
Office equipment and furniture	168,796	144,417	24,379	14,764
Uplink development and network configuration	1,157,962	1,122,838	35,124	50,177
Computer hardware	323,355	279,208	44,147	29,276
TVs,VCRs, cameras, satellite dishes and receivers	509,915	461,055	48,860	43,895
Fax machines and conferencing units	73,731	44,021	29,710	1,708
Computer software	151,331	140,387	10,944	11,634
Digital video compression equipment	1,487,382	967,227	520,155	735,104
Network alignment	118,184	105,052	13,132	52,526
Data transmission equipment	119,678	39,893	79,785	0
	4,110,334	3,304,098	806,236	939,084

4. Funds Under Administration

The Corporation administers funds on behalf of related parties, in accordance with the terms of contracts between the Corporation and the related parties.

5. Equity in Capital Assets

	2000	1999
	$	$
Balance - beginning of year	939,084	1,275,003
Allocation (to)/from retained earnings	(132,848)	(335,919)
Balance - end of year	806,236	939,084

6. Capital Reserve

The Board of Directors has approved the appropriation of $250,000 of retained earnings. The reserve has been established to provide for the replacement and upgrading of SCN's technical equipment. Amounts may be transferred from the reserve on the authority of the Board of Directors.

7. Commitments

a) Productions

At March 31, 2000 the Corporation had commitments totalling $50,750 (1999 - $34,500) representing the estimated costs to complete productions in progress.

b) Broadcast and duplication rights

At March 31, 2000 the Corporation had commitments totalling $1,343,551 (1999 - $1,290,780) for the acquisition of broadcast and duplication rights.

c) Full-time satellite transponder

The Corporation has a contract for a full-time KuBand satellite transponder. The contract cost for 2000-2001 is $1,466,033 (1999-2000 was $1,466,033). The contract extends to December 31, 2002.

d) Head end contract

The Corporation has a contract with the University of Saskatchewan, a related party, for the operation of SCN's master control, tape duplication, packaging and promotional productions and uplinking. The contract extends to August 31, 2000 with commitments of $342,047 to contract completion.

e) Multiplexer and uplink contracts

The Corporation has contracts with SaskTel, a related party, for a ten-year period ending September 1, 2000 for multiplexer and uplink services with estimated commitments of $27,331 to contract completion.

8. Related Party Transactions

All Government of Saskatchewan agencies such as departments, corporations, boards and commissions are related since all are controlled by the government.

Included in these financial statements are income and expense amounts resulting from routine operating transactions conducted at prevailing market prices with various Saskatchewan Crown-controlled departments, agencies and corporations with which SCN is related. The more significant of these are Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, SaskTel, the universities, SIAST, and the regional colleges. Account balances resulting from these transactions are included in the balance sheet and are settled on normal trade terms.

The following table summarizes SCN's major related party transactions that are in the normal course of operations. These transactions are recorded at exchange amounts agreed to by the related parties.

Revenues	2000 $	1999 $
- Saskatchewan Social Services for satellite conferences	0	36,166
- Saskatchewan Health for satellite conferences	14,819	20,276
- SIAST for studio use	7,914	26,723

	2000 $	1999 $
Expenditures		
Administration		
- SPMC for accommodation expense	94,130	91,078
- SaskTel for telephone operating costs	26,339	32,266
Program development - Universities, SIAST	660,170	660,000
Network distribution		
- Regional Colleges/SIAST for operation of Training Network sites	874,500	874,500
- SaskTel for video and audio signal transport services, and telephone operating costs	185,355	167,085
Accounts Receivable at March 31, 2000		
SaskTel for channel rent and data transmission trial	42,193	129,845
Legislative Assembly for purchase of receivers	12,719	0
Accounts Payable at March 31, 2000		
SaskTel for backhaul, uplink, multiplex and telephone charges	113,109	211,750

Other transactions with related parties, including their terms of settlement, are described separately in the financial statements and notes therein.

9. Financial Instruments

The Corporation's recognized financial instruments consist of accounts receivable and accounts payable. The Corporation does not have any financial assets or financial liabilities which are not recognized in the financial statements.

Credit risk
The Corporation is exposed to credit risk from the potential default of customers. However, the majority of the Corporation's receivables are from related parties, other government corporations, and agencies. Therefore the credit risk is minimal.

Fair values
The fair values of accounts receivable and all accounts payable approximate their carrying value due to the short-term nature of these instruments.

10. Comparative Financial Information

For comparative purposes, certain 1999 balances have been reclassified to conform with the 2000 financial statement presentation.

11. Comparison Of Planned and Actual Results of Expenditures

Operating Expenditures	2000 Budget	2000 Actual	1999 Actual
	$	$	$
Administration	769,659	715,405	738,850
Program support	526,463	548,064	522,416
Program development and production costs	1,075,000	733,737	864,981
Program acquisition costs	1,819,106	2,104,817	2,052,786
Network distribution	3,963,428	3,617,384	3,678,732
Administration - depreciation	—	86,256	71,527
Network distribution - depreciation	—	327,284	366,100
	8,153,656	8,132,947	8,295,392

Capital Expenditures	2000 Budget	2000 Actual	1999 Actual
	$	$	$
Administration (Net of disposal)	64,500	69,351	40,350
Network distribution (Net of disposal)	67,750	211,342	61,359
	132,250	280,693	101,709

12. Classification of Expenditures by Object

	2000 $	1999 $
Salaries (including benefits)	1,260,719	1,186,576
Communications	175,411	208,838
Administration - Operations	437,994	419,422
Programming - General	1,491,366	1,556,129
Programming - Educational	916,843	937,500
Other production and acquisition costs	430,346	424,138
Carriage	2,139,268	2,161,662
Regional college operational grants	874,500	874,500
Network operations	406,500	526,627
	8,132,947	8,295,392

The Year Ahead

SCN is committed to:

- continue to actively participate in the development, production, pre-licensing and acquisition of Saskatchewan film and video productions to deliver a diverse blend of quality programs reflecting Saskatchewan values;
- continue to work with producers, broadcasters and distributors to acquire relevant, quality programming for the Broadcast Network;
- continue to work with stakeholders and educational partners in the delivery of credit and non-credit educational programming;
- continue to work on learning technologies strategies with government departments and other educational partners;
- continue to work with Aboriginal Institutions to meet the distance education needs of Aboriginal students;
- continue to identify and secure resources required to meet the corporate mandate;
- continue to respond to community identified learning needs, partnering in program acquisition, delivery and promotion;
- explore innovative approaches for the delivery of distance education using new technologies;
- provide technical training and ongoing technical support to SCN receiving site personnel;
- provide professional development opportunities for all staff, where possible, in order to ensure that employees' knowledge remains current within individual areas of expertise.